

There is no shortage of urgent priorities in Sudan, Madam Speaker. In formulating a comprehensive strategy, we must focus on improving humanitarian access and supporting the deployment of a fully equipped peacekeeping mission with robust rules of engagement to ensure civilian protection in Darfur; also, finding a lasting political solution to the crisis in Darfur so that the people languishing in camps can go home;

thirdly, ensuring that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is fully implemented while fostering genuine reconciliation among southerners;

fourthly, resolving outstanding issues relating to contested areas, including a demarcation on the north-south border;

also, seeing free, fair and transparent elections in April of 2010, a referendum in 2011 and the results of each being respected.

We need to balance our efforts in Darfur with those in southern Sudan so that we do not sacrifice one region for the other. The conflicts in Darfur and in southern Sudan are linked, and they need to be treated that way.

Critically, the United States needs a comprehensive Sudan policy with the wisdom, the foresight and the teeth necessary to advance our own national security interests while facilitating viable peace efforts in Sudan. I don't doubt the administration has tried to accomplish this, but it is difficult to imagine a policy which presumes that the tiger will change its stripes simply because we asked. This is foolish at best and dangerous at worst.

The President's special envoy was all too quick to embrace as a policy victory the reintroduction of the three nongovernmental organizations that have been expelled from Sudan, but let's keep in mind the situation was created by the callous actions of Khartoum in the first place and that the campaign of intimidation and obstruction against NGOs continues unabated.

In rolling out this policy, Secretary Clinton stated, "Assessment of progress and decisions regarding incentives and disincentives will be based on verifiable changes in conditions on the ground."

Ambassador Susan Rice then warned that there would be "significant consequences" for those who failed to live up to their promises and that there would be "no rewards" for the status quo.

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It will be incumbent upon Congress to hold the administration to these pledges. In the interim, the U.S. must maintain strong sanctions on the Sudanese regime. U.S. leaders must refuse to be duped by empty gestures and window dressing designed to make us forget about the horror which has taken place in Darfur and beyond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INSLEE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.) Mr. INSLEE of Washington.

ECONOMY IS NOT DOING BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, just this morning to a roomful of Members of Congress, Secretary of Treasury Tim Geithner said, and I quote, "Our economy is doing better." Boy, is he out of touch. Let him come to Ohio. Let him see where our people are living and what we are enduring.

Like many communities across our country, our region has been devastated by the irresponsibility of the big banks where he came from. We have local banking institutions that were prudent in their lending and had strict underwriting. They belong to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and they have for many decades. They adhere to real rules and regulation, and they have regulators in their banks frequently, and they don't look for special privileges or taxpayer bailouts.

Overall, these community banks did not contribute to the downfall of our economy, and they were not propped up by the Federal Government. Why is this important? Because locally owned and operated banks and credit unions create real economic opportunity in their communities across this country. They invest local capital. They fund local, small and medium-size businesses, and they are accountable to their customers. They know them by name.

Right now, in most economically depressed communities, because of what happened on Wall Street and the megabanks, credit is shut down. It's hard for our small businesses to keep their doors open. They don't want money from TARP and the Federal Government like the Wall Street banks. They just want to return to business as it used to be, prudent, responsible, innovative, creating local capital in the marketplace.

But in America, there is no business as usual right now. On Monday, I met with many of these local bankers and credit unions, and what I heard makes me sad and makes me angry, and it makes me troubled for the future of our Nation. One banker told how he worked his way up in one of the big banks and then saw how capital moved away from our community to where that bank was headquartered. He didn't want to leave our community, so he went to work for a local bank, where he has now become the head of that bank.

What's on the horizon for that institution? The FDIC fees that have to be paid by these local banks that didn't do anything wrong are going up astro-

nomically, from maybe \$37,000 or \$40,000 a year to over \$450,000 a year, because of what the big banks did, not because of what they did. Why should our local banks be made to pay the price of the excess of Wall Street?

Credit unions, they told us one that had a \$20,000 fee in their share insurance fund. They are going up to over \$240,000 this year. That could shut down credit unions across this country. Why? Because the "too big to fail" banks are dipping into the coffers. What's happening at the local level is that as these higher fees have to be paid, those local institutions can't make loans.

I will tell you what's going on: A further concentration of our banking system in the hands of too few. Five banks in our country now have 37 percent of the deposits in our Nation. What does that say to you?

When will the price of credit be controlled by the very few? In fact, it is right now. Smaller banks are drying up. The FDIC has had to resolve dozens and dozens of them, and more are on the chopping block. Nearly 100 banks have been resolved this year alone, and the FDIC fund has taken a serious hit. It is going to take a bigger hit. Now they are going to the healthy banks to try to pay for the ones that didn't do it right in the first place.

So, who should step in? Where's Congress? What are we doing? We are dithering at the edges rather than dealing with the reality of what's happening in communities across this country.

You know what? It's time to break up these big financial institutions. We ought to take them into receivership like other Presidents have done in prior years in prior decades. We ought to resolve the loans on their books, and we ought to incentivize the part of our economy and those banks and credit unions that didn't do anything wrong.

That isn't happening. "Too big to fail" has to leave our financial vocabulary. It's time to return to Banking 101.

Wall Street was rewarded for bad behavior, and they have been rewarded for the last 15 years. They will do it again, and they are being rewarded again. So what do you think they are going to do again?

No more rewards.

Madam Speaker, the culture of greed and excess has to go if America is to survive this terrible meltdown. The big banks should be taken into receivership, their books resolved, and their burden taken off the rest of us, our financial system and the good actors in it, our taxpayers, so our economy can grow again. Nothing else should be acceptable to the President, the Congress and this country. It's long overdue to stop the billion-dollar bonuses and restore finance as usual in our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NASA SPACE MOMENT AND PERILS OF CHINESE DRYWALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, it's a critical time for NASA and our Nation's leadership in space, as you well know.

With the looming retirement of the space shuttle and the risks of a growing space gap, we are losing tens of thousands of additional jobs across the United States. These are jobs in industries that develop the cutting-edge technology that raises our standard of living and helps American businesses compete.

NASA has been at the cutting edge of technology, leading to so many devices and luxuries that we use every single day. Imagine what a day without NASA products would be like.

First, you may not have had a good night's sleep if you normally sleep on one of those temper foam mattresses or pillows, which were originally designed by NASA as a shock absorber. You may have even overslept without NASA's quartz timing in your alarm clock.

Being green won't help you get ready for work in the morning if you have a solar hot water heater installed in your roof, because cosmetics, toothpaste and many perfumes find their roots in NASA.

Before you head out the door, you may have difficulty getting an accurate weather forecast due to the lack of weather satellites coming out of our Nation's space program.

Better use a landline telephone to call work and let them know you are running a little behind, because cell phones and other wireless devices will be out of service on a day without NASA-derived technology.

Getting to work might be a challenge as well, particularly if you drive a hybrid. The lithium-ion battery in your hybrid was developed with NASA engineering expertise and tested at the Kennedy Space Center. Get rid of that temper foam seat on your motorcycle that you might ride to work.

Don't plan on flying to that vacation or important job conference. NASA-developed flight tracking and management software is used by air traffic controllers. It probably won't surprise you that flight safety software was developed by NASA. Just in case you find yourself on an airline, it may be a bumpy ride without NASA software that informs the pilots of turbulent conditions.

Work may be a little difficult too without access to NASA computer technology and their wireless headsets.

These are just some of the reasons we must also support the President's promise to close the space gap between

the shuttle and the Constellation Program and keep America first in space.

I will share more about NASA technology with you in our next space moment.

In the meantime, on an unrelated but another important topic, as a member of the Contaminated Drywall Caucus and a representative of an area impacted by contaminated drywall, I wanted to take a few minutes to draw the attention of my colleagues to this also very important issue.

Between 2004 and 2008, many homes were built using what has turned out to be organically contaminated drywall. Homes in 26 States and the District of Columbia are affected. It is particularly problematic in areas like Florida where we have high humidity.

A little over a year ago, it was discovered that the source of a number of corrosion issues and health symptoms were likely due to contaminated drywall originating in China. Since then, we have been working hard to find a solution, and what we have discovered is pretty disturbing.

The contaminated drywall consists of toxic and semi-toxic substances which release harmful gases. Many of these homes are filled with a pungent sulfuric odor which has since been linked to adverse health conditions. Some families have already been forced to move out of their homes for fear of long-term health effects.

These gases are also responsible for devastating corrosion to many standard household materials such as copper and brass fittings, air conditioner coils, electrical systems, and even fire alarms. We don't know if there is a valid remediation protocol short of pulling all of the contaminated boards out and replacing them.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been tasked as the lead Federal agency and is working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency to find solutions. The Consumer Product Safety Commission will soon release a study to answer some of the questions. They are also working on a remediation protocol.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission must work closely with all parties, seriously consider the results of private studies and share the results of their own studies with all stakeholders. We need all parties to be part of a quick and permanent solution.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking all those who are working so hard on this issue and in calling on the CPSC to bring forward their study results quickly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORIAM: DR. RITA HOCOG INOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, in the Northern Mariana Islands, as in any developing area of the world, there are very few people who achieve the highest of academic distinctions, the doctorate degree. Even fewer are the individuals who reach this achievement and then are willing to return home with their knowledge and skills. So it is a sad day, indeed, and a terrible loss to the Northern Mariana Islands when death takes from us such a person.

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos was born on the island of Rota. She grew up in Songsong Village there, attending elementary and junior high school. At the age of 18, she began teaching at Rota Elementary School. It was not uncommon a generation ago for persons without college degrees to be teachers in the Northern Marianas. We had to make do and lift ourselves up by our own bootstraps.

But Rita Inos was not satisfied to be an educator lacking in education. After 4 years of classroom teaching, she returned to school as a student and completed her bachelor of arts degree in bilingual education at the University of Hawaii of Manoa in 1979.

She brought her new education and skills home, working as principal in Rota schools for 10 years. At the same time she continued her own education with a determination that was an inspiration to all who knew her. By 1983, Rita Inos had completed her course work towards a master's degree in educational anthropology from California State University and had been awarded the master of arts in school administration and supervision degree from San Jose State University.

Throughout this time she was, of course, a role model, not only to the students of Rota but to her professional colleagues as well. Rita Inos seems to have had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and an undeterrable determination to reach the highest level of education and achievement. That was clear to all.

Her influence spread. She was asked to first work for the Center for Advancement of Pacific Education and later in the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory in Honolulu, beginning as director of programs and services and then becoming deputy director of PREL overall as a whole.

Of course, all the while, Rota Inos was pursuing her doctorate. She earned